



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,309	06/13/2000	Manu Kumar	119645-00103.3	7378

7590
Alfred W. Zaher, Esq.
BLANK ROME LLP
One Logan Square
130 North 18th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

03/22/2007

EXAMINER

BOUTAH, ALINA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2143

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/592,309	Applicant(s) KUMAR, MANU	
	Examiner Alina N Boutah	Art Unit 2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is in response to Applicant's amendment received December 13, 2006. Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application.

Specification

The use of the trademark such as Microsoft PowerPoint, Netscape, etc, has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner, which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Applicant's amendment overcomes the 112, first paragraph rejection. Therefore, the rejections are now withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

Art Unit: 2143

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,108,687 issued to Craig in view of USPN 6,240,444 issued to Fin et al. in further view of USPN 6,577,238 issued to Matsuda et al.

Regarding claim 1, Craig teaches an apparatus for interactive communications over a network among participants at a plurality of locations, the apparatus comprising:

a leader computer operatively connected to the network (figures 1 and 3) ;

a computer readable storage device accessible by the leader computer, the storage device including computer instructions for receiving and displaying information from the network (figure 3); and

computer instructions for instructions for transmitting the information to a plurality of other computers over the network, wherein said other computers each generally simultaneously displays the transmitted information (Abstract; col. 3, line 45 to col. 4, line 29).

However, Craig fails to explicitly teach said computer instructions for transmitting comprising a shared web browser to allow the leader to surf through the internet and to cause said other computers to follow the leader through the internet; and computer instructions for receiving additional information entered in a shared web browser white board from at least one of the other computers over the network, wherein said other computers and said leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information, and wherein the additional information is entered by a user of a computer from the plurality of other computers to be associated with the already displayed information; and computer instructions for receiving text-

Art Unit: 2143

based conferencing information from at least one of the other computers over the network, wherein other computers and said leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information in a shared web browser window separate from the white board, thereby not altering the information displayed in the shared web browser and the shared web browser white board.

In an analogous art, Fin teaches computer instructions for transmitting comprising a shared web browser to allow the leader to surf through the internet and to cause said other computers to follow the leader through the internet (abstract, col. 3, lines 12 – 55); and computer instructions for receiving additional information entered in a shared web browser white board from at least one of the other computers over the network, wherein said other computers and said leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information, and wherein the additional information is entered by a user of a computer from the plurality of other computers to be associated with the already displayed information; and computer instructions for receiving text-based conferencing information from at least one of the other computers over the network, wherein other computers and said leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information (figures 2, 4 and 13; col. 3, lines 12-55; col. 11, lines 17-50; col. 19, line 4 to col. 20 line 7).

In another analogous art, Matsuda teaches other computers and leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information in a shared web browser window separate from the white board, thereby not altering the information displayed in the shared web browser and the shared web browser white board (i.e. figure 17).

Art Unit: 2143

At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated incorporate the teaching of Fin and Matsuda into the teaching of Craig in order to allow users of the internet to simultaneously collaborate web pages.

Regarding claim 2, Craig teaches the apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the network comprises the Internet (col. 4, lines 12-15).

Regarding claim 3, Craig teaches the apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said computer instructions for receiving and displaying information from the network comprises a web browser (Abstract).

Regarding claim 4, Craig teaches the apparatus recited in claim 1, wherein said computer instructions for transmitting information to teach of the other said plurality from one of said plurality of computers comprises a presenter interface, the presenter interface further comprising computer instructions for communicating with each of the other of said plurality of computers and for causing information to be generally simultaneously displayed on said other computers (Figure 4; Abstract).

Regarding claim 8, Craig teaches a method of conducting a collaborative presentation among a plurality of participants at two or more locations, wherein each of said participants has a computer operatively connected to a computer network, the method comprising:

Art Unit: 2143

a) providing a website on the computer network for said participants to obtain access to the collaborative presentation (col. 4, lines 7-10);

b) providing information to be displayed on each of said participants' computers during the collaborative presentation (col. 4, lines 16-29);

c) providing means for said participants to access the website (col. 4, lines 7-10); and

d) initiating the collaborative presentation by one of said plurality of participants presenting the information on the one of said participants' computers, wherein the computer of each of the other of said plurality of participants generally simultaneously displays the information (Abstract; col. 4, lines 16-29).

However, Craig fails to explicitly teach e) interactively adding information associated with the presented information by one of the other of said plurality of participants in a shared web browser white board, wherein the computer of each of said participants generally simultaneously displays the additional information in the shared web browser white board; f) initiating a text-based conferencing by one of the other of said plurality of participants, wherein the computer of each of said participants generally simultaneously displays the text-based conferencing information in a shared web browser window separate from the white board, thereby not altering the information displayed in the shared web browser and the shared web browser white board; and

Fin teaches e) through f) (figures 2, 4 and 13; col. 3, lines 12-55; col. 11, lines 17-50; col. 19, line 4 to col. 20 line 7), although he does not explicitly teach other computers and leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information in a shared web

Art Unit: 2143

browser window separate from the white board, thereby not altering the information displayed in the shared web browser and the shared web browser white board.

In another analogous art, Matsuda teaches other computers and leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information in a shared web browser window separate from the white board, thereby not altering the information displayed in the shared web browser and the shared web browser white board (i.e. figure 17).

At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated incorporate the teaching of Fin and Matsuda into the teaching of Craig in order to allow users of the internet to simultaneously collaborate web pages.

Regarding claim 9, Craig teaches a method of conducting a conference among a plurality of participants situated at two or more locations over a computer network, the method comprising:

- a) providing a website on the computer network (col. 4, lines 7-10);
- b) providing means for said participants to access the website via a computer having a display (col. 4, lines 7-10);
- c) providing a browser interface for conducting the conference (Abstract); and
- d) operably connecting each said participants' computers such that the display of each of said participants generally simultaneously displays the shared browser interface (Abstract; col. 4, lines 16-29).

However, Craig does not explicitly teach e) providing a white board to allow each participants to enter additional information associated with the display of the shared browser

Art Unit: 2143

interface, the additional information being displayed in the white board, thereby not altering the display of the shared browser interface.

Fin teaches e) (figured 2, 4 and 13; col. 3, lines 12-55; col. 11, lines 17-50; col. 19, line 4 to col. 20 line 7). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ e) in order allow users of the internet to simultaneously collaborate web pages (col. 2 line 65 to col. 10), although he does not explicitly teach other computers and leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information in a shared web browser window separate from the white board, thereby not altering the information displayed in the shared web browser and the shared web browser white board.

In another analogous art, Matsuda teaches other computers and leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information in a shared web browser window separate from the white board, thereby not altering the information displayed in the shared web browser and the shared web browser white board (i.e. figure 17).

At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated incorporate the teaching of Fin and Matsuda into the teaching of Craig in order to allow users of the internet to simultaneously collaborate web pages.

Regarding claim 10, Craig teaches as recited in claim 9 further including the step of categorizing said participants into one of a presenter participant or an attendee participant, such that the presenter participants' computer controls each of said attendee participants' computers via the browser interface (figure 4; col. 12, lines 55-56).

Art Unit: 2143

Regarding claim 11, Craig teaches an apparatus for conducting a conference among a plurality of participants situated at two or more locations over a computer network, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a website having a server computer on the computer network (col. 4, lines 7-10);
- b) computer instructions for said participants to access the website via a computer having a display (col. 4, lines 7-10);
- c) a shared browser interface for conducting the conference (figure 2); and
- d) computer instructions for operably connecting each of said participants computers such that the display of each of said participants generally simultaneously displays the shared browser interface (Abstract; col. 4, lines 16-29).

However, Craig does not explicitly teach e) computer instructions for providing a white board to allow each participants to enter additional information associated with the display of the shared browser interface, the additional information being displayed in the white board, thereby not altering the display of the shared browser interface, and computer instructions providing a text based communication in a separate browser window, thereby not altering the display in the shared browser interface or in the whiteboard, to allow each participant to initiate and participate in text-based conferencing during the conference.

Fin teaches e) (figures 2, 4, and 13; col. 3, lines 12-55; col. 11, lines 17-50). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ e) in order allow users of the internet to simultaneously collaborate web pages (col. 2 line 65 to col. 10), although he does not explicitly teach other computers and leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information in a shared web browser window separate

Art Unit: 2143

from the white board, thereby not altering the information displayed in the shared web browser and the shared web browser white board.

In another analogous art, Matsuda teaches other computers and leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information in a shared web browser window separate from the white board, thereby not altering the information displayed in the shared web browser and the shared web browser white board (i.e. figure 17).

At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated incorporate the teaching of Fin and Matsuda into the teaching of Craig in order to allow users of the internet to simultaneously collaborate web pages.

Regarding claim 13, Fin teaches the apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising computer instructions for initiating designation in the leader computer of one of the plurality of other computers as a replacement leader computer, wherein the presentation of information on, or a selection of a web site in, the new leader computer causes the information presented on, or web site selected in, the replacement leader computer to be generally simultaneously displayed on the computer of each of the plurality of other computers, including the leader computer (figure 2).

Regarding claim 14, Fin teaches the apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising computer instructions for transmitting comments or questions from any one or more of the plurality of other computers to the leader computer (figure 2).

Art Unit: 2143

Regarding claim 15, Matsuda teaches the apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising computer instructions for assigning different color to the text-based conferencing information received in the leader computer of each of the plurality of other computers to identify origination of the text-based conferencing information (col. 7, lines 59-65).

Regarding claim 16, Craig teaches the apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising computer instructions for blocking the text-based conferencing information forwarded from any one or more of the plurality of other computers (col. 14, lines 44-61).

Regarding claim 17, Fin teaches the apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising computer instructions for terminating, from the leader computer, a connection of any one or more of the plurality of other computers from the network (figure 7: step 730).

Claims 5-7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Craig in view of Fin, in further view of *Using Microsoft PowerPoint 2000* by Rutledge et al.

Regarding claim 5, Craig teaches a method of conducting a collaborative presentation among a plurality of participants situated at two or more locations, wherein each of said participants has a computer operatively connected to a computer network, the method comprising:

a) providing a web site on the computer network for a said participants to obtain access to the collaborative presentation (col. 4, lines 7-10);

c) providing information to be displayed on each of said participant's computers during the collaborative presentation (col. 4, lines 16-29);

d) accessing the website to the identifier means (col. 4, lines 16-29); and

e) initiating the collaborative presentation by one of said plurality of participants presenting the information on the leader's computers, wherein the computer of each of the other of said plurality of participants generally simultaneously displays the information on the leader's computer (Abstract; col. 4, lines 16-29).

However, Craig does not expressly teach f) interactively adding information associated with the presented information by one of the other of said plurality of participants in a shared web browser white board, wherein the computer of each of said participants generally simultaneously displays the additional information in the shared white board; and

g) sharing a web browser of one of said plurality of participants with each of the other of said plurality of participants, so that the shared web browser causes the plurality of participants to collectively surf through the internet according to web sites selected by the leader on the leader's computer;

h) instantiating the leader's designation of one of the other of said plurality of participants as a new leader, wherein a presentation of information, or a selection of a web site, on the new leader's computer causes the information presented, or web site selected, on the new leader's computer to be generally simultaneously displayed on the computer of each of the other of said plurality of participants.

Fin teaches (f), (g) and (h) (abstract, col. 3, lines 12-55; col. 11, lines 17-50).

At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ (f), (g) and (h) in order allow users of the internet to simultaneously collaborate web pages (col. 2 line 65 to col. 10).

Craig and Fin do not expressly teach b) sending a message to each of said plurality of participants, the message providing an identifier means for accessing the collaborative presentation. Rutledge et al. teach sending a message to each of said plurality of participants, the message providing an identifier means for accessing the collaborative presentation (Chapter 17, Using Online Broadcasts and Meetings pages 1-11). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to send a message to each of said plurality of participants in order to instruct the participants to access the collaborative presentation, thus, ensuring that those that are intended to participate in the presentation will not be left out.

Regarding claim 6, Craig teaches the method of conducting a collaborative presentation among a plurality of participants as recited in claim 5, further including the step of initiating a telephone conference call while conducting the collaborative presentation (col. 4, lines 51-55).

Regarding claim 7, Craig fails to expressly teach the method of conducting a collaborative presentation among a plurality of participants as recited in claim 5, wherein said identifier means comprises one or more of a confirmation number, and a scheduled date and time for accessing the collaborative presentation. Rutledge et al. teaches said identifier means comprises a scheduled date and time for accessing the collaborative presentation (Chapter 17, Using Online Broadcasts and Meetings pages 1-11). At the time the invention was made, one of

Art Unit: 2143

ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to enable said identifier means to comprise a scheduled date and time for accessing the collaborative presentation in order to ensure that participants will access the presentation at the specific time and date, therefore, ensuring that those that are intended to participate in the presentation will not be left out.

Regarding claim 12, Rutledge teaches the method of conducting a collaborative presentation among a plurality of participants as recited in claim 5, further including the step of initiating display of a list of all of the plurality of participants (figure 17.27).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 2143

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alina N. Boutah whose telephone number is 571-272-3908. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00 am - 5:00 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ANB

ANB


DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 270